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not enough materially to disturb these conditions.

The last thing we did before leaving our camp between the lakes was to erect on the top of the little knoll, in plain view from both lakes and from Schoolcraft Island on the north, a monument to the memory of Nicollet, on which was inscribed the following: "To the memory of J. N. Nicollet, who discovered the source of the Mississippi River, August 29, 1836." This was done after fully exploring the country for miles around; and our little party of three was fully satisfied that fifty years ago Nicollet had discovered all there was to discover of the sources of the Mississippi; and that if he had lived to complete his report on 'The sources of the Mississippi and the North Red rivers,' and to give to the world his unpublished map, there would have been no chance for any Glazier to confuse the geographical world, or to play tricks upon the learned societies of two continents. We found our work difficult enough, though we were only a day's ride from civilization and the railroad, and though the whole township had been marked off and blazed at every turn by the government surveyors. What, then, must have been the heroism of the invalid devotee of science, who buried himself for months in the unbroken wilderness, and gave his life to the exploration of the frontiers of his adopted country!

I have done my work without any prejudice or bias, and determined only upon finding out and stating the truth in regard to the sources of the great river of our continent whose exploration has commanded the service of so many worthy men in every period of our history.

As a preparation for the survey, I had read every thing I was able to gather on the subject, and I took with me tracings of all the maps of the region, either published or to be found in the government departments. The work has been done by actual survey, and in such a way that I believe it will bear investigation by any surveyor who wishes to check it.

HOPEWELL CLARKE.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 7, 1886.

#### THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS.

A WRITER in the *Athenaeum* states that the managing committee have now drawn up and will immediately issue a series of rules and regulations for this school. Its objects are declared to include, 1°, the study of Greek art and architecture in their remains of every period; 2°, the study of inscriptions; 3°, the exploration of ancient sites; 4°, the tracing of ancient roads and

routes of traffic; and, further, the study of every period of Greek language and literature from the earliest age to the present day. The students of the school will fall under the following heads: 1°. Holders of travelling fellowships, studentships, or scholarships at any university of the United Kingdom or of the British colonies; 2°. Travelling students sent out by the Royal academy, the Royal institute of British architects, or other similar bodies; 3°. Other persons who shall satisfy the managing committee that they are duly qualified to be admitted to the privileges of the school. Students attached to the school will be expected to pursue some definite course of study or research in a department of Hellenic studies, and to write in each season a report upon their work. Such reports are to be submitted to the director, and may be published by the managing committee if and as they think proper. Intending students are required to apply to the secretary, Mr. George Macmillan, 29 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London. No person will be enrolled as a student who does not intend to reside at least three months in Greek lands. Students will have a right to use the library of the school free of charge. So far as the accommodation of the house permits, they will (after the first year) be admitted to reside at the school building, paying at a fixed rate for board and lodging. The managing committee may from time to time elect as honorary members of the school any persons actively engaged in study or exploration in Greek lands.

The director is to deliver at least six free public lectures at Athens during the season, and at the end of each season he is to report to the managing committee upon the studies pursued during the season by himself and each student. A sub-committee has been appointed to purchase books for the library so far as funds will allow. Presents of books or pamphlets will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the honorable secretary.

#### THE 'NATURAL METHOD' OF LANGUAGE-TEACHING.

No single word has created so great a confusion of thought as the word 'natural.' Its bare etymological meaning is plain enough; but its application is confined by the bounds of no dictionary, and its sense is as mutable as the shifting sands of the seashore. No other word has so often been used by writers as the convenient vehicle of their own individuality. 'Natural' is often simply what one desires from his own particular view to be natural. It is necessary, accordingly, always carefully to scrutinize its use, and thus to discover